

REMARKS**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1, 5, 7 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Hirano* (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,659). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter from claim 8 that was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. *Hirano* neither teaches nor suggests the use of the supply potential node as claimed in Applicants' amended claim 1. Applicants believe that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claims 2 – 4, 6, 8 – 11, and 13 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of claim 8 has been included into claim 1. Claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice. The subject matter of claim 6 has been combined with the subject matter of claim 1 to produce new claim 28. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14-27 were indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record.

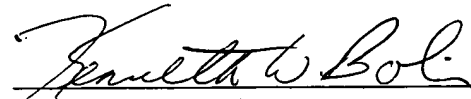
CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully request that the claims of the present invention be allowed for the above reasons. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2211. No new matter has been entered by this amendment and response.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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